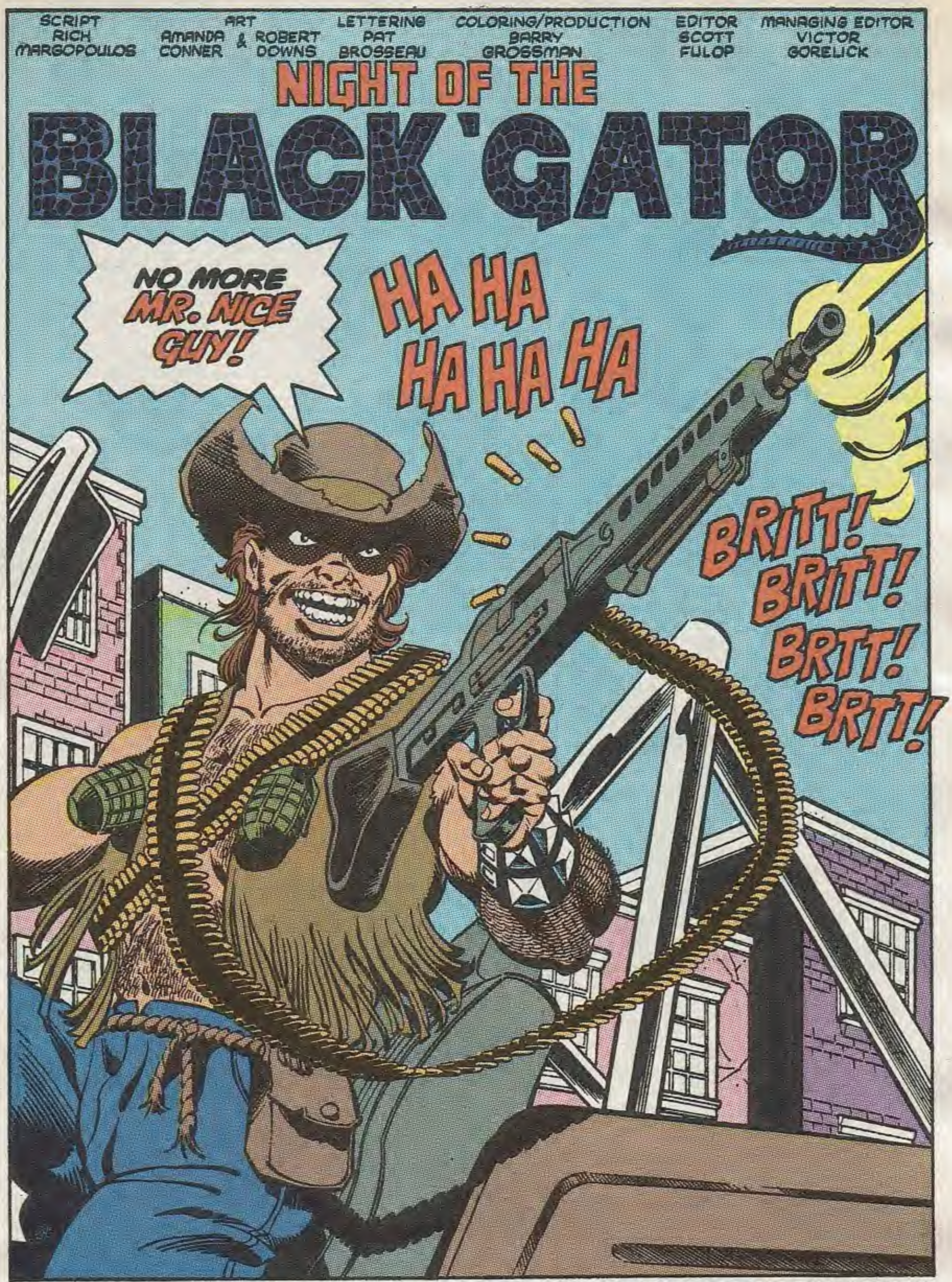
Archie®
ADVENTURE
SERIES
NO.5
JUNE
$1.00
THE ADVENTURES OF
BAYOU BILLY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KELLEY JONES
Archie®
Salutes
"ARTIST OF THE MONTH"
REGINA CURRO



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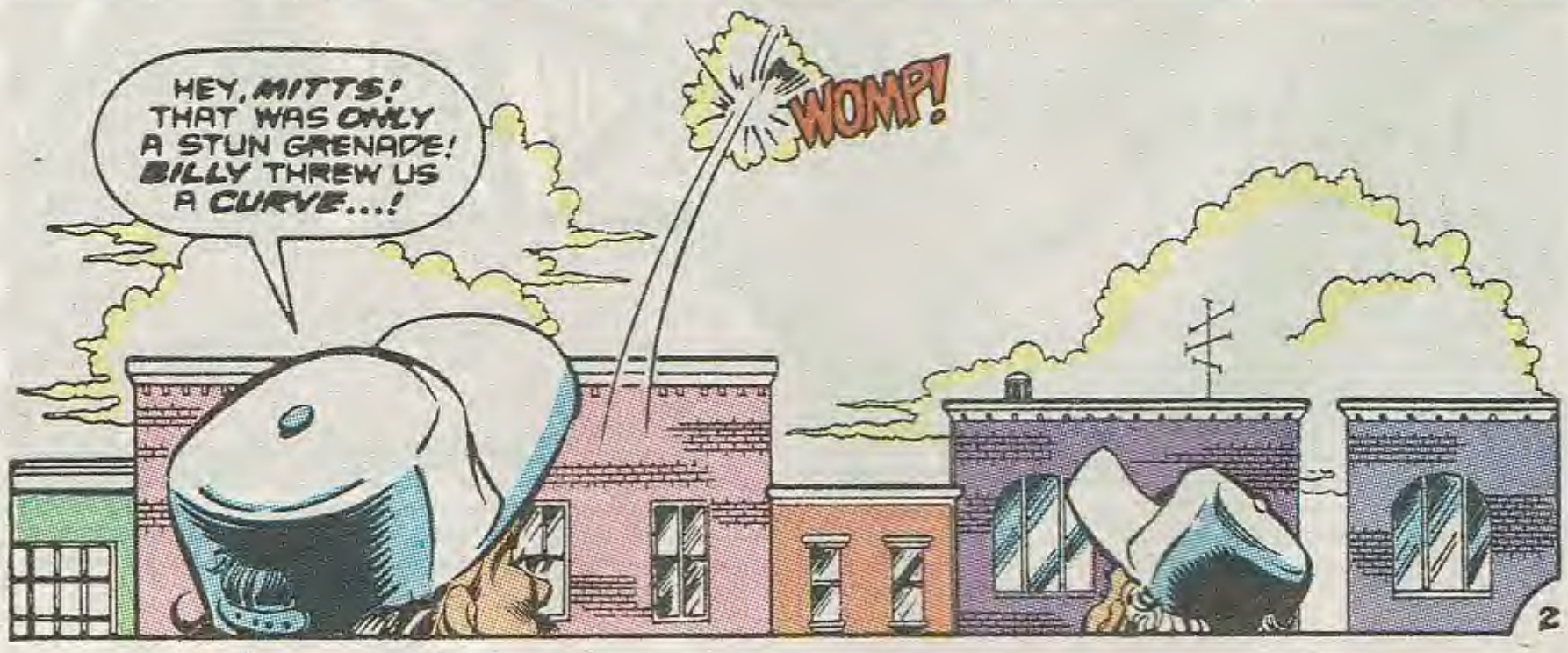
BOSS! IT'S BAYOU BILLY! HE'S PACKIN' MAJOR HEAT!
RELAX! IT'D TAKE A HAND GRENADE TO PRY US OUTTA THIS ARMORED LIMO!
BUT MR. LA RUE! HE...HE'S GOIN' FOR A GRENADE!!

MITTS! SLUGGER! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

SHAGGED IT! NO SWEAT!

HIGH HEAT COMIN' YOUR WAY, SLUGGER!
AND IT'S OUTTA HERE...!!


HEY, MITTS! THAT WAS ONLY A STUN GRENADE! BILLY THREW US A CURVE...!
WOMP!

GAME'S OVER, BOYS! EITHER YOU DROP 'EM-- OR I DROP YOU!
FIRST BANK OF

KLAT!
KLATTER
KLONK!
FAP!

OUT OF THE CAR, LA RUE! THE BRIEF-CASE--! FORK IT OVER!
YOU CAN'T SPEND THE MONEY, BILLY!

IT'S DIRTY, AIN'T BEEN LAUNDERED YET!
I'LL REMEMBER TO GO HEAVY ON THE BLEACH! Y'ALL HAVE A GOOD DAY, HEAR?!

BRITT! BRITT! BRITTT! BRIT!
HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHA

BOSS! SOMEBODY CALLED THE COPS!
WHAT'LL WE SAY?
TELL 'EM THE TRUTH! THEN, WE GOTTA FIND THAT MONEY BE-FORE THEY DO!!

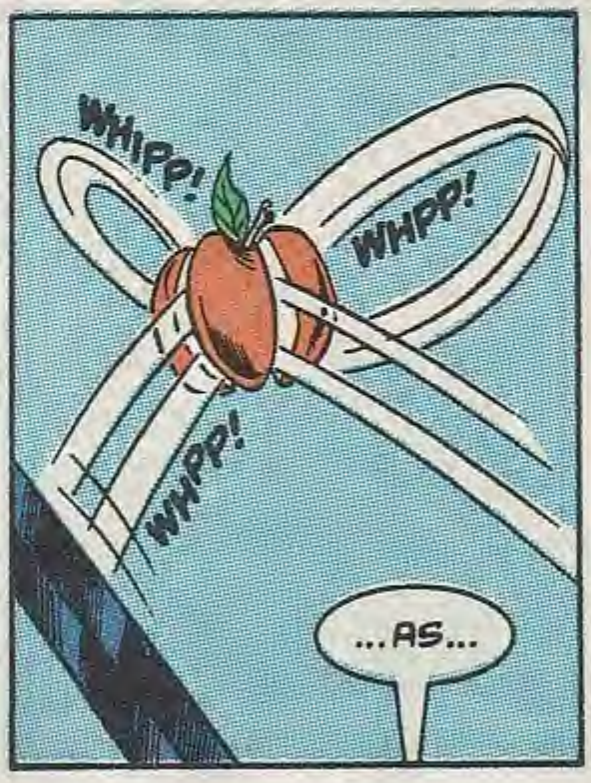
HERE'S MIGRAINE MIKE, SERGEANT!
NETTED HIM RED-HANDED, WE DID!
YUP! NOW ABOUT THAT REWARD--?
:MUMBLE GRUMBLE: IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT BOTTLE OF ASPIRIN--!
BROADSIDE, SURESHOT AN' TRACKER!
BAYOU BILLY'S BOUNTY HUNTIN' BUDDIES! YORE JUS' TH' GENTS I WANNA SEE...! :MUNCH:
:GRUMBLE MUMBLE: BUFFERED, NO LESS!!
DON'T S'POSE Y'KNOW WHERE BILLY'S AT NOW, HUH? :CHOMP:
COULD BE ONE OF A MILLION PLACES, SERGEANT! WHY?
HE'S WANTED ON ROBBERY AND ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGES! :SMACK:
ROBBERY?
MURDER?!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
ME, NEITHER! BUT IT'S M'JOB TO BRING 'IM IN!
YOU SEE 'IM, TELL 'IM TH' SMART THING T'DO'S GIVE HISSELF UP!
:CRUNCH:
:URP:
WANTED
WE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'!
YUP!
:HIC:
I 'GREE! BUT...WHAT?!

BOUNTY HUNTING QUARTERLY
HOW HE NABBED SWAMP GAS CHARLIE
BILLY'S BOTTOM LESS BAG O' TRICKS
EXCLUSIVE: WHO IS THE CAJUN?
WHUMP!
BAYOU BILLY!
BAYOU BILLY!
BAYOU BILLY...!
I'M SICK OF READIN' ABOUT BAYOU BILLY!!

I'M TWICE THE BOUNTY HUNTER HE IS! BUT HE RAKES IN ALL THE PUBLICITY!

WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS...
...WHEN I CUT HIM DOWN TO SIZE!
THUNK!

EASY...


WHIPP!
WHPP!
WHPP!
...AS...

...APPLE PIE!
CHUP
FLIP
PLOP
PLOP

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS! BILLY'S RELENTLESS, OBSESSED WITH US--!
WHADDAYA EXPECT, ROCCO? WHEN THAT CONTRACT WAS PUT OUT ON HIM...

...WHO'D THOUGHT HURRICANE HANK'D ACCIDENTALLY WASTE HIS WIFE INSTEAD?!
AN UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE, ROCK--
ONE I HOPE TO SOON RECTIFY!
RINGG!
AH, THAT SHOULD BE SCHWARTZ N. EIGER NOW!

EVERYTHING WENT WITHOUT A HITCH, MR. GORDON! YEAH! I'VE BOOKED A MOON FLIGHT TOMORROW, NO SWEAT...!
EXCELLENT!

EIGER IS A WASHED-UP SOAP OPERA STAR! HE'S TURNED HIS TALENTS TO CRIME!
THANKS TO HIM, HE'S GOT LA RUE'S MOB AND THE COPS AFTER BILLY!
A SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE PLAN, EH? EH?!

I'M SWIMMIN' IN CYPRESS WATER! IT'S SO DARK, IT'S LIKE LIQUID NIGHT!
A SUDDEN SPLASHING AN' CHANGE IN PRESSURE TELLS ME I'M NOT ALONE!
I TURN AN' SEE THE BIGGEST 'GATOR IN MY LIFE--BLACK AS MIDNIGHT! I DRAW MY KNIFE! IT GRINS A SMILE OF DEATH AT ME!
I SNAP AWAKE!
PAPA JAMBO, AN OLD MAN TEACHIN' ME THE WAYS OF THE BAYOU, STANDS IN THE DOOR LIKE A SHADOW!
HEARD YA CRY OUT IN YORE SLEEP! Y'ALL RIGHT, BOY?
I HAD A STRANGE DREAM, PAPA... 'BOUT A BLACK 'GATOR!
TH' BLACK 'GATOR, HUH? THAT'S A GOOD SIGN!
GOOD? IT ATTACKED ME! I FOUGHT TO STOP IT!

TH' BLACK GATOR'S YORE SECRET GUILT AND HATES -- ALL BUNDLED UP INTO ONE!

WHEN YA FIGHT IT, IT SHOWS YA AIN'T AFRAID T'FACE YORE FEARS!
HOW CAN I DEFEAT IT, POPPA?

YA CAN'T, BILLY! THERE'S A BLACK 'GATOR LURKIN' DEEP DOWN INSIDE ALL'A US!
MOST YA KIN DO'S GUARD 'GAINST IT!

HAS ANYONE EVER BEAT THE BLACK 'GATOR?
HAD ME A STUDENT ONCE WHO DID! HAD T'LET 'IM GO! DIDN'T KNOW IT AT TH' TIME...

... BUT HE HAD SO MUCH EVIL IN HIS HEART, HE WAS TH' BLACK 'GATOR!

I SNAP AWAKE! A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM! WEIRD!
PAPA'D SAY THE DREAM WAS SOME KINDA' OMEN!

IT'S EVENING! I OVERSLEPT MY NAP! 'FORE I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT IT ALL MEANS...
... I HEAR A DOZEN PATROL CARS PULL UP!
POLICE

IT MUST'VE BEEN A CHORE 'N A HALF FINDIN' MY SECLUDED HOME I GO OUT TO SEE WHAT THE RUCKUS'S 'BOUT!
HI SARGE! WHERE Y'AT?

FREEZE, BILLY! WE'RE BRINGIN' YEW IN FER QUESTIONIN'!
THERE'S A TIME TO FIGHT, A TIME TO RUN, AND A TIME TO HIDE!

I 'CIDE ON THE LAST!
QUICK! SURROUND THE HOUSE! THE REST'A YEW MEN--COME WITH ME!
SLAM!

DOG'S GOT HIS SCENT, SARGE! HE'S IN SOME SORTA SECRET PANEL!

SNIF SNIF
BILLY'S FULL'A TRICKS! BE READY FOR ANYTHING!

WE OPEN ON THE COUNT'A THREE! ONE... TWO...

...THREE!
H-HEY! IT... IT'S EMPTY!

STUPID MUTT--!
SEARCHED THE REST'A THE GROUNDS, SARGE! HE GOT CLEAN AWAY...!
:WHINE:
WAP!

C'MON, MEN! LET'S GO!
K-R-E-A-K

I KNOW HOW POLICE THINK! THEY'D NEVER LOOK FOR A SECRET PANEL INSIDE A SECRET PANEL!

I'M THIRSTY! I ALSO NEED SOME FAST ANSWERS! LUCKILY, ASSISTANT D.A. ANNABEL LEE'S MY CHER!

ANN? BILLY! WHA--? YOU'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO REACH ME?!

HAD MY PHONE SWITCHED OFF, SUGAR! WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE LAW?
FOR STARTERS, YOU'RE A WANTED MAN! CHARGED WITH ARMED ROBBERY AND ATTEMPTED MURDER--!

W-WH-WHAT?!?
SPLUT
MILK

LISTEN! YOU'VE GOT TO SURRENDER-- TURN YOURSELF IN!
PAT PAT PAT
NO DICE, DARLIN'! WHILE I'M WADIN' THROUGH RED TAPE, WHOEVER FRAMED ME'LL BE GETTIN' AWAY!
MILK MILK

BILLY, BE REASONABLE FOR ONCE! I--!
KLIK!
BILLY? BILLY?!

THAT IMPOSSIBLE MAN--!
SLAM!

HE'S GOT TO DO EVERYTHING HIS WAY!

WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY I LOVE HIM SO...!
SIGH

I'VE GOTTA PICK UP MY LEADS AS I GO ALONG!
I HAUL INTO NEW ORLEANS, THE RADIO GIVING ME DETAILS ON THE LA RUE CAPER!

EEEEEEEEEE WREEE EEEOOO
INSIDE THE BIG EASY CITY LIMITS, I PICK UP A POLICE ESCORT!

LARRY & GARY'S USED CARS
SCREECH

I STASH MY BILLY-MOBILE AN' LOSE 'EM, EASY AS APPLE PIE!
EE EEEEEEEEEEEEEEOOOO

FOR THE NEXT FEW BLOCKS, I HOOF IT!
I CUT DOWN ALLEYS...

TAKE TO THE ROOFTOPS...

...AN' TIPTOE THROUGH BACKYARDS!
RRF?
SSHHHHH...!
MARIGOLD

I'M AT ANNABEL'S PLACE IN NO TIME! I NEED A SET OF WHEELS! SHE HAS A NEW CAR!

IT'LL DO JUST FINE...!
AS I "JIMMY" THE LOCK, SOMEONE SLIDES UP BEHIND ME!
I DON'T HEAR A THING!
I'M TAKIN' YOU IN, BILLY WEST--DEAD OR ALIVE!

HE'S GOOD, A PRO!
WHO'RE YOU?!
ME?

I'M CALLED... THE BLACK 'GATOR!

HE "GRINS" A SMILE OF DEATH!
MY DREAM'S BECOME A LIVIN' NIGHTMARE!
I GET READY TO PLAY ROUGH!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME?

WHIZZ
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN'T?

FOR WEEKS, I'VE BEEN TAILIN' YOU! I CAN ANTICIPATE YOUR MOVES, ALL'A YOUR STUNTS!
THUP!

WHILE 'GATOR'S PATTIN' HIMSELF ON THE BACK, I DIP INTO MY BAG O' TRICKS!
...HIT HIM WITH FLASHPOWDER!
NOT THAT IT DOES ANY GOOD!
FIGURED YOU'D TRY TO TEMPORARILY BLIND ME!

HIS EYES ARE AS BLACK AS COAL!
THAT'S WHY I'M WEARIN' POLARIZED CONTACTS!

I'M OUTCLASSED! ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE- SUCKER HIM IN CLOSER!
THE GREAT BAYOU BILLY! WHAT A JOKE! FROM NOW ON, I'M NUMBER ONE! 'LESS YOU WANNA PROVE ME WRONG...!
NO! YOU WIN! I GIVE!

CLOSER!
WHAT ...?!?
YOU HEARD ME! TURN ME OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES!

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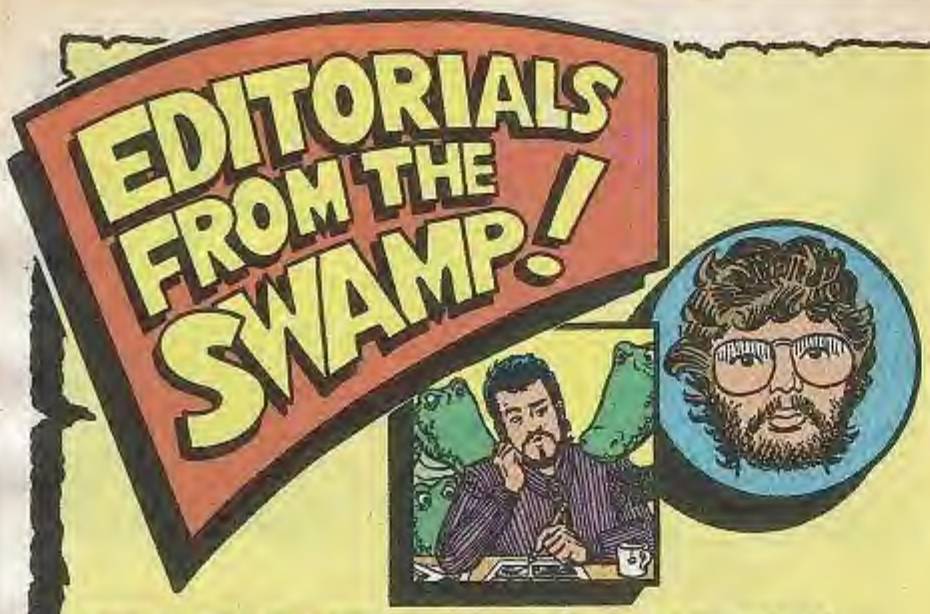

SWAMP SPOTLIGHT ON: RAJUN' CAJUN' RICH MARGOPOULOS!

Last issue, I promised you an interview with our superstar writer, Rich Margopoulos. So, without further adieu, Heeeerrrrs Rich!

RICH: Greetings!

SCOTT: Hey Rich, how's ***"by-you"?***

RICH: Ugh! That's terrible!

SCOTT: True, but I'm just getting even for some of the bad jokes you've subjected me to over the past five issues. But let's get down to business. When you were first contacted by Archie Comics, what aspect of this dynamic adventure concept inspired you to take on this new writing assignment?

RICH: Well, in the past, I had worked on a lot of licensed characters and material for other companies including children's story books, coloring books, and activity books. I've always enjoyed working on licensed characters because in my experiences, the company owning the property allowed me a lot of creative freedom to develop characters that had little or no literary development. As you explained in your "Editorials From The Swamp!" last issue, I was given the opportunity to use my creativity to "flesh out" and fully develop some interesting basic concepts provided by Konami without my being locked into a specific story scenario. Konami called Bayou Billy the "rajun' cajun", but they and Archie Comics gave me the freedom to make him a bounty hunter, design his origin, and more.

SCOTT: What type of research did you do before writing the series?

RICH: I'm a big fan of action movies. It's not surprising that the movie industry has discovered that the mysterious bayou in New Orleans makes a great setting for these types of films. I was a big fan of the "Big Easy" and "No Mercy", both of which were of course set in New Orleans, and which certainly gave me a lot of inspiration. For research, I used the good ol' fashioned public library and contacted the New Orleans chamber of commerce for additional info'. They informed me that Choctaw Indians were native to the area (hence my idea to make Tracker half Choctaw), as well as giving me insights to local slang. For example, down in the bayou, they don't say cray fish, they say "craw fish". **Boy, that really sticks in my craw!**

SCOTT: Man! And you complained about my jokes! On a serious note, what inspired you to write Billy's thoughts in "voice over" captions?

RICH: Basically, "voice over" captions are not overly used in comics, and I thought they would be a good way to help the reader get to know Billy. When a reader is able to share a literary character's inermost thoughts, he is quickly able to identify with and appreciate that character's trials and tribulations.

SCOTT: Did you pattern any of the series character's personalities or appearances after real life people, such as friends, relatives, celebrities, or yourself?

RICH: No not really. Basically I designed Billy and his bounty hunting compadres as people who don't really take themselves seriously. Sometimes people who become more involved in "who" they are, that is, people who are impressed with themselves, become so self centered that they don't realize what they're missing in life. I wanted Billy and his buddies not to be impressed with themselves, but to realize the severity of the dangerous situations they are constantly placed in. Am I making any sense?

SCOTT: Well...Uhh...Gee, I think so. C'mon Rich! isn't Bayou Billy similar to you in any way?

RICH: I do have steel toed boots...they get the job done!

SCOTT: Uhh...yeah, right! "Next question time"! When you were originally designing the series, how did you decide what special abilities you were going to give Billy's pals Tracker, Sureshot, and Broadside?

RICH: Basically, the abilities I came up with were abilities that many people who live in the bayou already have. As I mentioned before, Choctaw Indians are native to that area, Indians have long been revered for their tracking abilities; hence my inspiration for Tracker. Also, there are quite a few people who trap game as well as hunt in that part of the country; hence my inspiration for Broadside and Sureshot. Obviously, I amplified everybody's abilities to give them slightly larger than life heroic qualities.

SCOTT: Besides Billy, who's your favorite character?

RICH: Hmm...that's a tough one. I'd have to say Swamp Gas Charlie. He's such an unusual character, and that makes him real fun to write. What can I say, other than that "Swamp Gas" is a real fun oddball.

SCOTT: Takes one to know one!

RICH: Thanks a lot!

SCOTT: Don't mention it! Speaking of villains, what was your inspiration for some of the imaginative concepts you developed for Billy's adversaries?

RICH: As you once again explained last issue in your "Editorials From The Swamp!", most of Billy's opponents had seen little or no character development. In most cases I was simply presented with a name. I decided to make things interesting by developing characters whose premise was the exact opposite of their names. For example, Hurricane Hank became an arsonist, but his name still worked because whenever Hank created a major fire, it would take a "Hurricane" to put it out! When it came to Blackie Blue, I thought his name was so funny and comical, I just had to do the opposite and make him a dark creature of the night.

SCOTT: One final question. Last issue you treated the fans to a story of extreme tragedy, one that I seriously doubt left a "dry eye in the house." We all witnessed the wonderful marriage of Billy to Laurie, and Laurie's tragic demise. What was your motivation for introducing this heart rendering aspect to the character of Billy and the series in general?

RICH: To start with, there are essentially very few married heroes in comics. Most heroes are fairly young, just beginning their lives, not really established, and haven't had a chance to settle down with a wife and kids. I wanted to make use of this plot device to show the reader that Billy was so much more than just a wise-cracking, fun loving, good natured hero. Here was a man who had already begun his life. He had a beautiful new bride, and they were very much in love. He had a new career that he was thrilled with, his family was "expanding" as a baby was on the way; he even had a new house. Everything was wonderful, and in an instant, it was all taken away. This scenario certainly put the Gordons in the spotlight, and provided the best reason for Billy to be their relentless pursuer. But it accomplished something more important. It gave Billy extreme character "depth". Every time Billy smiles, cracks a joke, or looks tenderly in Annabel's eyes, we the reader, know that something is there. A powerfully motivating, albeit tragic force, that transformed a man's soul. Whatever William Jackson West was before Laurie's death, has been irrevocably changed. Now, every time the reader thrills to the adventures of Bayou Billy, they'll know that there's more to this man than meets the eye. He's not just another tough guy with a couple of good lines.

SCOTT: Well, I certainly learned a few things today. I hope our readers did too. Before we sign off, is there anything else you'd like to talk about?

RICH: Glad you asked! Did I ever tell you the story of how I single handedly stopped invading forces from Mars, while balancing atop a burning helicopter, eating a six foot hero sandwich, and...

SCOTT: Uhh...Gee Rich, gotta go! Just remembered a dentist appointment I made last year! C'mon Rich! Anything important you want to say to the readers before we end this interview?

RICH: Yes! Keep on buyin' Bayou! Bye-Bye!

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO:
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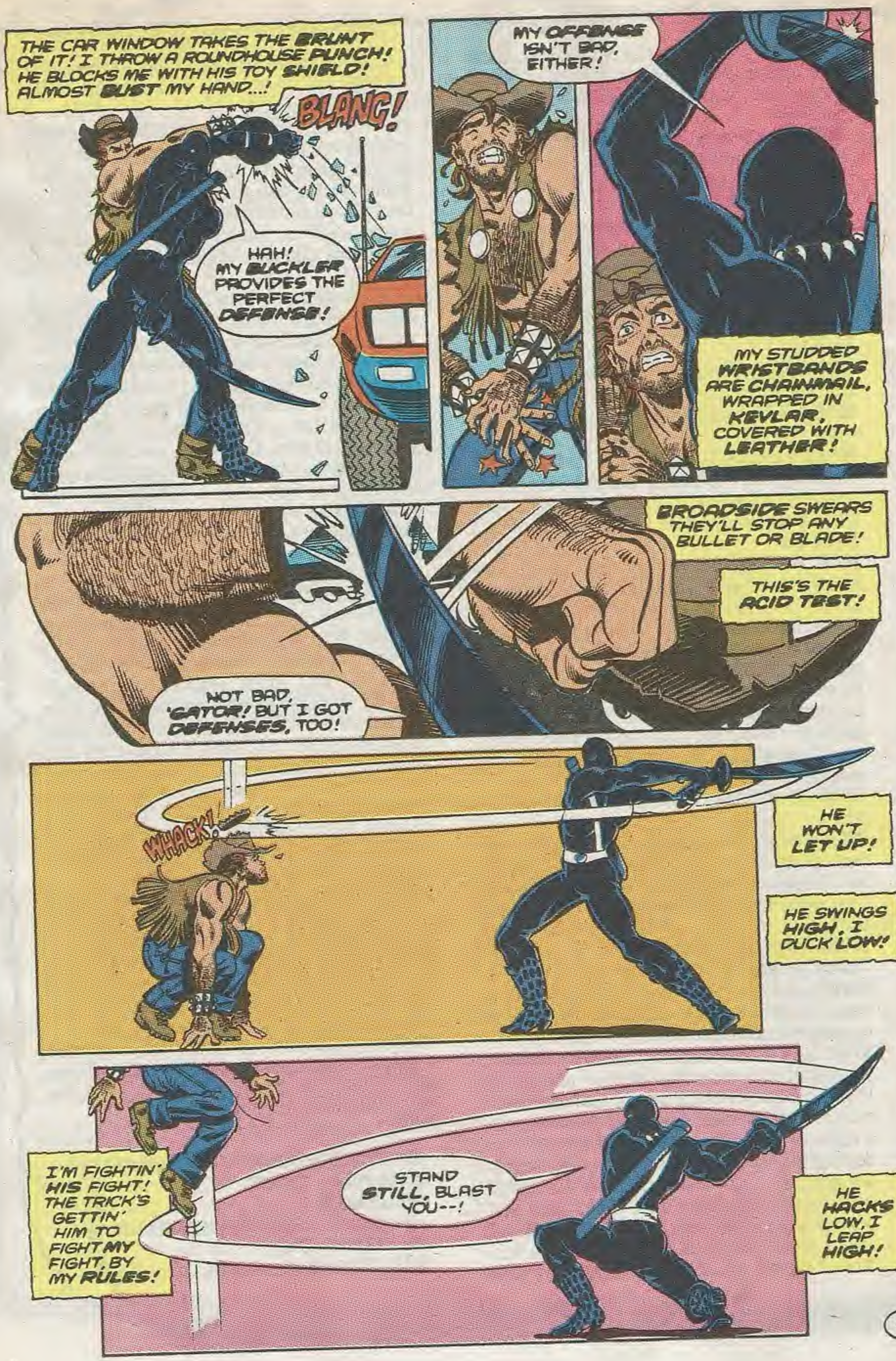
THE CAR WINDOW TAKES THE BRUNT OF IT! I THROW A ROUNDHOUSE PUNCH! HE BLOCKS ME WITH HIS TOY SHIELD! ALMOST BUST MY HAND...!
BLANG!
HAH! MY BUCKLER PROVIDES THE PERFECT DEFENSE!
MY OFFENSE ISN'T BAD, EITHER!
MY STUDDED WRISTBANDS ARE CHAINMAIL, WRAPPED IN KEVLAR, COVERED WITH LEATHER!
BROADSIDE SWEARS THEY'LL STOP ANY BULLET OR BLADE!
THIS'S THE ACID TEST!
NOT BAD, 'GATOR! BUT I GOT DEFENSES, TOO!
WHACK!
HE WON'T LET UP!
HE SWINGS HIGH, I DUCK LOW!
I'M FIGHTIN' HIS FIGHT! THE TRICK'S GETTIN' HIM TO FIGHT MY FIGHT, BY MY RULES!
STAND STILL, BLAST YOU--!
HE HACKS LOW, I LEAP HIGH!

BUT I DON'T COME DOWN! I BACKFLIP ONTO ANNABEL'S CAR HOOD!
'SCUSE ME FOR NOT PLAYIN' FAIR!
THE 'GATOR TAKES THE BAIT, COMES CHARGIN' AT ME! I PULL BACK HER RADIO ANTENNA...
...'AN LET HIM HAVE IT SMACK BETWEEN THE EYES!
SOONER OR LATER, I'LL WEAR YOU OUT, AND THEN--
YOW!
BOING!
WAPP!
LORDY, I BET THAT SMARTS, HUH?!
HE TAKES A WILD STAB AT ME! I SOMERSAULT OVER HIS HEAD!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, BAYOU BILLY!!
FINE! CAN YOU BREAK A FIFTY?
SOON AS I LAND BEHIND HIM, I SINK MY KNUCKLES INTO A PRESSURE POINT!
IF NOT, YOU'LL HAVE TO BILL ME!
PHAPP!
URF--!

THE 'GATOR SWITCHES THE FIGHT BACK TO HIS RULES! HE WHIRLS 'ROUND, SLAMMIN' HIS SHIELD INTO MY FACE!
ARRRR-AAAHHHH!
SPLANG!
I SEE LOTS OF PRETTY STARS!

NOT SKIPPIN' A BEAT, HE SLUGS ME IN THE GUT!
WHUMP!
NEXT TIME I TELL YOU I'M THE BEST, BELIEVE IT!

HE FOLLOWS UP WITH A ONE-TWO COMBO...
SOK!
KRACK!
...A KNEE TO THE CHIN AND A SWORD HILT TO THE BACK OF MY HEAD!

HE'S MAKIN' ME A BELIEVER...!

WE CHANGE BACK TO MY RULES! I RUSH AT THE 'GATOR!
HE FALLS FOR MY FAKE OUT, LAUGHIN' AS HE SIDESTEPS ME!
HA HA HA HA HA HA

I PLUCK MY KNIFE FROM THE STREET!
SUDDENLY, IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME!

IN AN INSTANT, I PRY THE FRONT WHEEL COVER LOOSE!
WRINK!

MY BLADE DANCES THROUGH THE AIR!

HE EASILY BATS IT ASIDE...

...LEAVIN' HIMSELF WIDE OPEN!
YOU'RE THE BEST ALL RIGHT, 'GATOR!

I CLIP HIM SOLID WITH THE HUBCAP!
CLONK!
THE BEST TARGET, THAT IS...!
G-GA-GAK!!

EEEEEEEEEEEEE
CAN'T LEAVE THE 'GATOR BEHIND TO THREATEN ANNA-BEL...!
HE'S DOWN BUT NOT OUT! POLICE SIRENS'RE IN THE DISTANCE!
BILLY! WAIT! TURN YOURSELF IN--!

I HOT-WIRE HER CAR AND STEAL IT! I LET THE CREEP HITCH A RIDE!
BILLY--!!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

SEVERAL BLOCKS LATER, I SEE A PILE OF GARBAGE BAGS! TIME TO UNLOAD THE EXCESS BAGGAGE!
I TAKE THE CORNER HARD...!
!
GAAAA!!

EASIEST 'GATOR I EVER SKINNED!
HEY! COME BACK! THAT'S MY DELIVERY VAN!
BAYOU BILLY ISN'T GETTIN' RID OF ME THAT EASY!

I GO VISIT SNITCH! HE'S RECENTLY MOVED! IT'S MY JOB TO KEEP TABS ON HIM!
HE'D RAT OUT HIS OWN GRAN' MAW FOR THE RIGHT PRICE...
...OR IF YOU LEAN ON HIM ENOUGH!

I USE THE FIRE ESCAPE TO DROP IN ON HIM! HE BOLTS FOR THE FRONT DOOR!
OH, NO! NOT BAYOU BILLY AGAIN--!
KREESH!
I am smarter than average
DON'T EVEN THINK 'BOUT RUNNIN' OUT ON ME!

I STOP HIM DEAD IN HIS TRACKS!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO THINK, SNITCH!
THUNK!
G-GULP!

TALK! WHO SET ME UP?
TH-THE GORDONS HIRED SOME ACTOR T-TO BE YOU!
HE... HE'S AT THE OLD JACKSON THEATER WITH LA RUE'S DOUGH!

THAT'S ALL I KNOW! YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME...!
I DO, SNITCH! YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO CON ME!

THAT DOES IT! I'M SKIPPING OUT BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE CAN--!

BAWHAM!
N-NOW WHAT?!

I TAILED BAYOU BILLY HERE! WHERE'D HE GO?!
T-TH-THE J-JA-JACKSON T-TH-THEATER! B-BUT HE'S...

SOME? VANISHED LIKE A GHOST--!

AND I'D BETTER PULL A VANISHING ACT, TOO!

LOUIE'S
NO BOYS
I'VE GOTTA FIND A NEW LINE OF WORK AND--

ACK!
SNITCH--!!

BILLY'S TEAM... BROADSIDE, TRACKER AND SURESHOT!
HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A GUN-TOTING BOGUS BILLY! GOT ANY GOOD IDEAS?

TRY THE JACKSON THEATER!
PAT PTT PAT
THAT'S A GOOD SNITCH!

SMACK!
A WORD OF ADVICE, FRIEND! NEXT TIME DON'T LEAVE YOUR FORWARDING ADDRESS WITH YOUR OLD LANDLADY...!
I am smarte than avera (the average amoeba, that is!)
GEEZ--! IT'S GETTING SO YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY!!

I GOTTA LAY LOW BEFORE ANYONE ELSE CAN--
SCREEECH!

PSST! SNITCH! C'MERE!
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO ASK, MR. LA RUE! GO TO THE JACKSON THEATER!
THOSE ROTTEN CHEAPSKATES! NOBODY PAID FOR INFORMATION!
I'LL DROP A DIME ON THE WHOLE STINKIN' BUNCH!

POLICE? LISTEN, THERE'S SOMETHIN' COMING DOWN AT THE JACKSON THEATER...!

...$62,432...
...$62,433...
...$62,434...
EIGHT... THREE... SIX... ONE... NINE... FOUR...

AW, NOW YOU MADE ME LOSE COUNT! I--!

WAITAMINNIT! IF I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE, THEN WHO--?

B-BA-BAA-BAYOU B-BILLY!
IN THE FLESH!

BEFORE I CAN BEAT THE STUFFIN'S OUTTA MY DOUBLE, I HEAR A FAMILIAR GROWL!
WE GOT SOME UN-FINISHED BUSINESS, BILLY, YOU AN' I!
BLAST--! IT'S THE 'GATOR!

I SNATCH THE ACTOR'S HAT AND CIGAR!
HE WANTS TO PRE-TEND HE'S ME, I'M GONNA PRETEND I'M HIM!
WHA--?

I MAKE THE SWITCH JUST IN TIME!
TWO BILLYS!!
HE'S THE ONE YOU WANT, THE REAL BAYOU BILLY!
?!?

THINK YOU'RE SLICK, EH? WELL NOT SLICK ENOUGH!
YOU'RE MAKING A DREADFUL MISTAKE!

I'M NOT...
URK!

THE WAY YOU TOOK THAT PUNCH--! YOU'RE NOT BAYOU BILLY!
THAT'S WHAT... I WAS TRYING... TO TELL YOU!

THEN, YOU'RE THE REAL BAYOU BILLY!
GUESS WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE, 'GATOR!
YOU'RE NOT AS DUMB AS YOU LOOK!

WHY YOU--!
AHNT!
ME, WHAT? SPEAK UP! DON'T MUMBLE!
THAT'S MY CUE!

WHILE YOU GENTLEMEN SETTLE YOUR DISPUTE, I'LL BE LEAVING NOW!
NO, YOU'RE NOT!
YES, HE IS!

YOU POOL! HE CAN CLEAR MY NAME! YOU'RE LETTIN' HIM GET AWAY!
FORGET YOUR NAME! THIS IS BETWEEN US! MAN-TO-MAN!!

SMASH!
FAPP!
THERE'S A REASON THEY CALL ME THE RAJUN CAJUN, 'GATOR!
AN' YOU'RE GONNA FIND OUT WHY...!

GOT TO GET TO THE AIRPORT-- CATCH THE NEXT FLIGHT OUT!
CLOSED FOR REMODELING
WONDER WHAT BULGARIA IS LIKE THIS TIME OF YEAR?
ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GOING, PAL...

...IS THE STATE PEN!
BILLY'S TEAM OF BOUNTY HUNTERS!

TOO BAD I'VE GOT THE UPPER HAND!
DON'T FORCE ME TO USE THIS!

AW, NAW! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
THONK!
TWANG
ZIPPP!

SURE IT IS! THEY DO IT IN THE FUNNY BOOKS ALL THE TIME!

LA RUE!!
EEEEECH!

THE COPS!
EEEEEECH!

SHERIFF! ARREST THEM! THEY STOLE MY MONEY!

SARGE! ARREST THIS MAN! HE FRAMED BILLY FOR THE ROBBERY!
THE BALLISTICS'LL MATCH THE BULLETS AT THE CRIME SCENE!
YUP!

BUT... BUT WHAT ABOUT MY MONEY?!
WE'RE HOLDING IT FOR EVIDENCE! AND IT BETTER BE CLEAN, LA RUE...
THINK IT'S TOO LATE TO TRY FOR THE MINOR LEAGUES?!
...OR YOU'RE IN DEEP, DEEP TROUBLE!
BIFF WAP BAM SOK CLUD
WHERE'S BILLY NOW, SURE-SHOT?
SOUNDS TO ME, ANNABEL, THAT HE'S TYING UP SOME LOOSE ENDS INSIDE!
SWACK!
I...
WHUMP!
...HAVE HAD...
...ENOUGH OF YOU!!
FRAK!

KER-RASHHH!

DIDN'T MEAN TO SLUG HIM SO HARD! HE'S...

GONE? VANISHED LIKE A GHOST--!

LOOKS LIKE PAPA JAMBO MIGHT'VE TAUGHT HIM TOO MUCH...!

I STAGGER OUTSIDE! ANNABEL AND THE OTHERS ARE THERE TO GREET ME!

BILLY! THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

BUT... WHO WERE YOU FIGHTING WITH?

IT'S A LONG STORY, DARLIN'!

CLOSED

IT'S LIKE ONE BIG FAMILY REUNION!

WHAT'S WRONG, BOY? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!

MAYBE I HAVE, SHERIFF! JUST MAYBE I HAVE...!

STILL, I'M FEELIN' GOOD! I MEAN, I FOUGHT THE BLACK 'GATOR --AND WON!

THE END

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SEND YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO:

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Dear Swamp Sayin's,
I just wrote to say how much I like your comic. Please have more of Swamp Gas "AHHH" Charlie and make this the best Bayou book by making this comic monthly! Please! Please! Please!

Bob Lipski
Minneapolis, Mn.

"Best Bayou Book"—Gee, sounds like a phrase I ought to "coin"! Seriously though Bob, I'm glad you're enjoying our "swamp stompin'" action. Hopefully, last issue's story satisfied your appetite (at least temporarily) for more adventures with Swamp Gas Charlie. You did buy issue #4, didn't you Bob? Bob?!

Dear Billy,
I started reading Bayou Billy comics about a month ago and must tell you I really enjoy them. I recently bought issue #2 and would like to ask you a couple of things. First of all, what happened to Hurricane Hank? Did he live or die? Will Billy ever find Papa Jambo again? Hopefully I'll find out in an upcoming issue. In the meantime, I'd love to see a massive war with Billy and the gang wasting the Gordons. I've got just one more small question: If Billy buys a house, is it going to be by the swamp? Well, I didn't write just to ask questions, but to let you know that Bayou Billy is my favorite comic. Well, enough from me now.

Adam Harris
Lake Oswego, OR

Hey, Adam! Happy to hear you're enjoying the adventures of America's favorite rajun' cajun'! If you read issue #3, you know by now that Billy's new house is most definitely situated in the swamp—so deep in the swamp that most people can't find it! Last issue, Billy discovered that Hurricane Hank was partly responsible for his wife's death. You can bet your "bayou boots" Billy will be doing everything in his power to discover the fate of ol' Hurricane. Finally, if you've read this issue (you're not one of those fans who reads the letter's page first, are you?!) you've witnessed the return of Papa Jambo, as we slowly, but surely, reveal more of Billy's origin.

Dear Bayou Billy,
I loved "Bayou Billy" No. 3. The fight between Blackie Blue and Swamp Gas Charlie was the best. But one question: is Blackie Blue's crime partner the one and only Joker?

In hope for the next comic,
Kris "The" Reisy

Sorry Kris, but the Joker's dead. Now there's only...Blackie Blue!

Dear Archie Comics,
I've just read Bayou Billy #3, and it is awesome! I think Blackie Blue will be a formidable enemy for Billy in the future. And what's with this "AHHH" Swamp Gas Charlie Gaskill? I think the Gordons hired him to kill Laurie. That's why he keeps escaping. But that's just my opinion. I can't wait to see what Billy's Quest will be about!

Keep it up
Daniel Melvin
Columbus, OH

Good try Dan, but no cigar! As we discovered last issue, Hurricane Hank's the guilty party. You're in good company though, because Billy had the same wrong guess as you. Hmm... you think like Bayou Billy...you like his adventures...maybe you could be his new partner?! Ask your folks before you go shambling through the swamps, O.K.?!

Keep sending in those cards and letters! Don't forget to write and let us know how you liked this issue and our new villain sensation...the BLACK GATOR!

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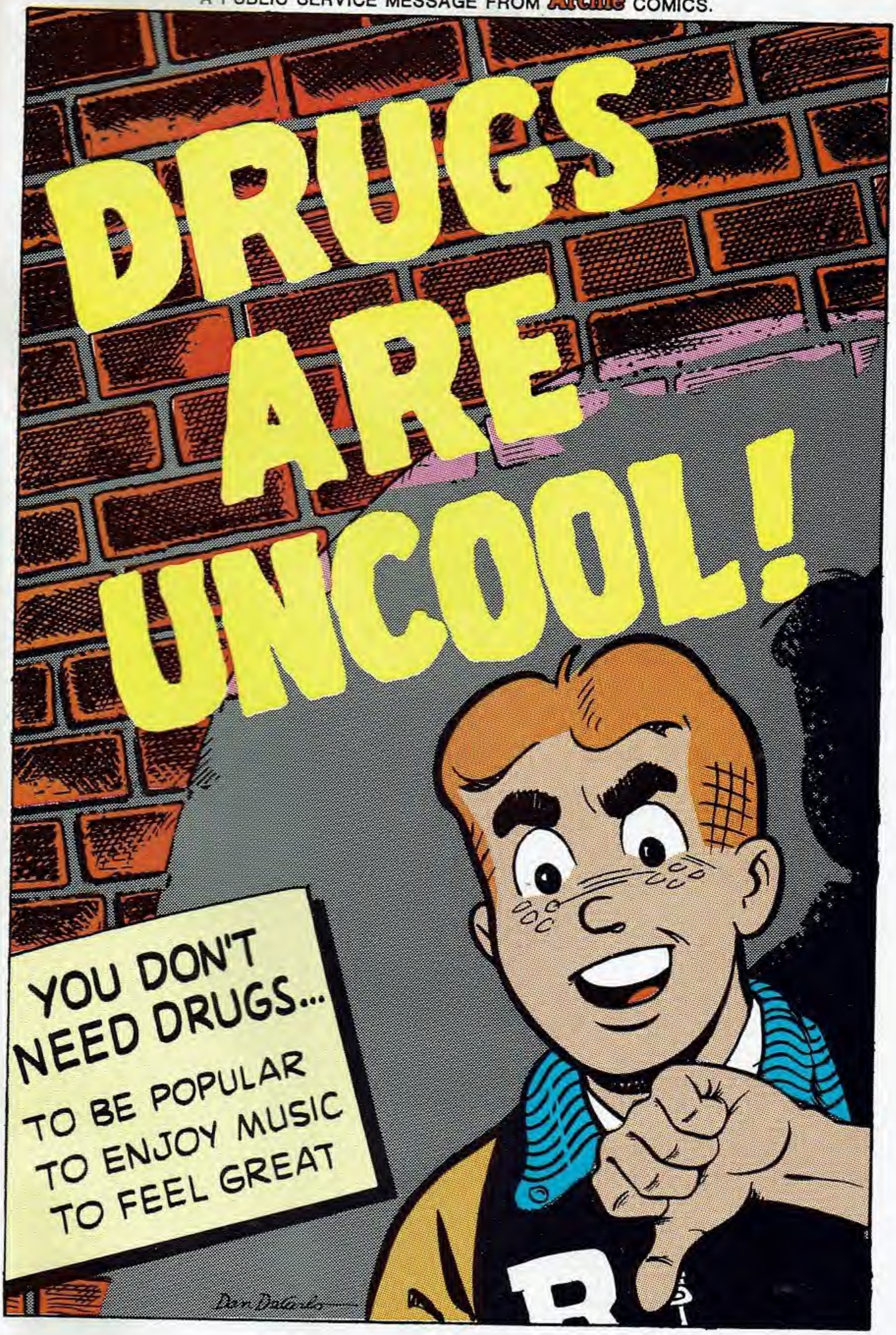

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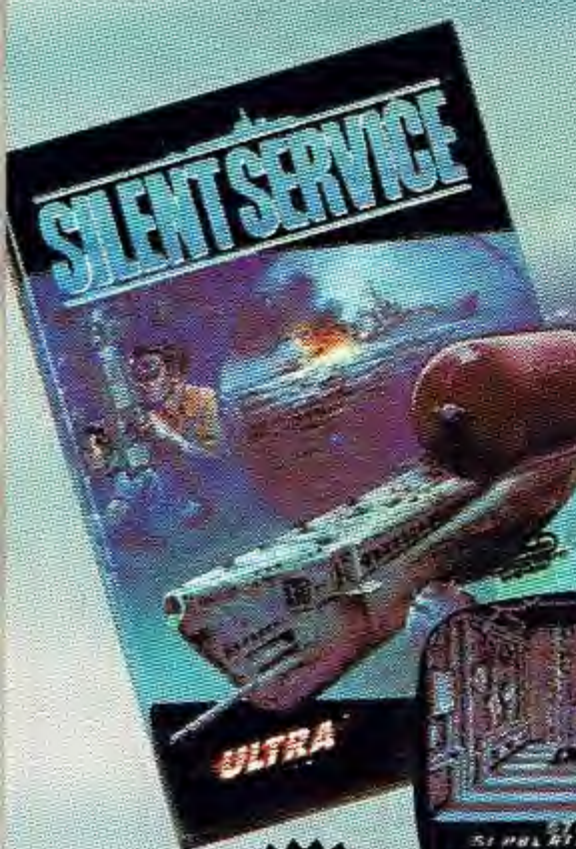

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